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FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3904
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH 2089
RUEHZN/ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM COLLECTIVE
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 3029
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5620
RUEHHK/AMCONSUL HONG KONG 1041
RUEHGZ/AMCONSUL GUANGZHOU 0740
RUEHCN/AMCONSUL CHENGDU 0272
RUEHSUN/USUN ROME IT
RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI 1421
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA
RUEAUSA/DEPT OF HHS WASHINGTON DC
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//USDP/ISA/AP//
RHMFISS/CJCS WASHINGTON DC//J2/J3/J5//
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC//DHO-3//
RHMFIUU/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI//J00/J2/J3/J5//
RHEFAFM/DIRAFMIC FT DETRICK MD//MA-1A//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 HANOI 002803

SIPDIS

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STATE FOR EAP/MLS, EAP/EP, INR, OES/STC, OES/IHA, MED
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR ANE AND GH
STATE PASS TO HHS/OGHA (WSTIEGER, EELVANDER AND ABHAT)
USDA PASS TO APHIS
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FOR OSD/ISA/AP (LSTERN)
BANGKOK FOR RMO, CDC, USAID (JMACARTHUR AND MBRADY)
ROME FOR FAO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [TBIO](#) [KFLU](#) [AMED](#) [AMGT](#) [CASC](#) [EAGR](#) [PINR](#) [SOCI](#) [VM](#)
SUBJECT: VIETNAM - NOVEMBER 3 AVIAN INFLUENZA REPORT

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SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED

REF: HANOI 2686 AND PREVIOUS

¶1. (SBU) Summary: There have been no reported human Avian Influenza (AI) cases and no confirmed AI outbreaks in poultry to date this year in Vietnam. On November 1, the Charge d'Affaires signed the Partnership Framework for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI) along with nine donors and three non-governmental organizations. The USG is the second largest donor (after Japan) and has committed and pledged over USD 12 million of the total USD 94.2 million received by the Government of Vietnam (GVN). A senior MARD official stated that the GVN has spent USD 15.3 million on 260 million vaccines and administered these to 124 million poultry, or 90 percent of the birds in targeted areas. He added that post-vaccination virus surveillance in 19 high-risk provinces indicates the national vaccination campaign has been an effective intervention. The GVN announced that one million doses of Tamiflu and 1,000 respirators are stockpiled. The French pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur successfully conducted human trials on a H5N1 vaccine based on a Vietnamese H5N1 strain isolated in 2004. In Lam Dong Province, 4,000 ducks were culled following the suspicious deaths of several hundred animals. Party officials in the northern province of Quang Ninh were removed from leadership and stripped of their party membership as a result of embezzling funds earmarked for AI prevention. End Summary.

¶2. (U) There have been no reported Avian Influenza (AI) cases and no confirmed AI outbreaks in poultry to date this year in Vietnam.

13. (SBU) On November 1, the Charge d'Affaires signed the Partnership Framework for Avian and Human Influenza (PAHI) along with nine donors and three non-governmental organizations. The PAHI, officially titled "Partnership Framework between National Steering Committee for Avian Influenza of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam and International Partners Concerning the Establishment of the Partnership Framework for Avian and Human Influenza," is non-binding and voluntary. Commonly known as the Green Book, it provides the overall framework for donor coordination to support the GVN's "Integrated Operational (IO) Program for Avian and Human Influenza (2006-2010)."

14. (SBU) The partnership meeting follows on the June 2006 donor conference aimed at funding the Green Book, which is estimated to cost USD 250 million through 2010. The GVN pledged USD 100 million and hoped that the donor community would fill a gap of USD 150 million. As of November 1, the USG is the second largest donor, after Japan's pledge of USD 14.5 million. The USG has committed or pledged over \$12 million of the total USD 94.2 million received by the GVN. The European Community, World Bank and Asian Development Bank have also contributed sizable amounts, at USD 12 million, USD 10 million and USD 9.7 million respectively.

15. (SBU) In the meeting, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc Phat praised the international donor community for their support to Vietnam and listed a number of clear actions, including vaccinations, biosafety measures and early detection systems, that have helped Vietnam to remain free of AI outbreaks in poultry and human cases for nearly one year. Minister Phat acknowledged that the GVN needs to step up efforts to control bird movements, including across the northern border, and coordinate the animal and human sides of the AI fight. Several Chiefs-of-Missions,

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taking the lead of the Australian Ambassador, pressed the GVN to remain vigilant, share lessons with their neighbor countries, namely Laos and Indonesia, and to reinvigorate the GVN's public awareness campaign.

16. (SBU) At the meeting, a senior MARD official stated that the GVN has spent USD 15.3 million on 260 million vaccines and administered these to 124 million poultry, or 90 percent of the birds in targeted areas. (Note: There are an estimated 250 million chickens and ducks in Vietnam. End note.) The official added that post-vaccination virus surveillance in 19 high-risk provinces indicates that the national vaccination campaign has been an effective intervention.

TAMIFLU STOCKPILE AND HUMAN VACCINES

17. (SBU) Vice Minister of Health Trinh Quan Huan announced on October 20 that the GVN had purchased one million Tamiflu (oseltamivir phosphate) tablets and was distributing them to hospitals across the country. VM Huan also announced that 1,000 respirators, 100 tons of the disinfectant Chloramin B, one million medical gloves and masks, and 1,000 chemical sprayers to disinfect poultry farms. (NOTE: Health officials in central Vietnam reported to HCMC ECONOff that no additional Tamiflu had been received since late 2005. END NOTE.)

18. (U) Thanh Nien News and multiple global media outlets reported that France-based pharmaceutical company Sanofi Pasteur had successfully conducted human trials on a H5N1 vaccine based on a Vietnamese H5N1 strain isolated in 2004. Sanofi Pasteur vaccinated 300 volunteers with the Vietnamese strain of the virus and then tested antibodies from the vaccinated volunteers with H5N1 strains from Turkey and Indonesia. Preliminary results of the trials indicate that a vaccine based on a Vietnamese H5N1 strain can be effective in neutralizing antibodies from H5N1 viruses found in other countries. Dr. Klaus Stohr of the WHO indicated that while vaccine tests on mice and other mammals had suggested cross-protection was possible, Sanofi Pasteur's trials were the first to indicate cross-protection in humans. Dr. Angus Nicoll,

Director of Influenza Coordination at the European Center for Disease Prevention and Control, added that even if a vaccine offered cross-protection, it could not be used to inoculate humans from other influenza subtypes.

CULLINGS AND HEADS THAT ROLL

¶9. (U) Vietnam News Agency reported that 4,000 ducks in the Central Highlands province of Lam Dong have been culled following the suspicious deaths of several hundred animals. Local animal health authorities reportedly killed the 70-day-old poultry after observing the animals to be bloated, immobile, and thiamine deficient. The owner of the flock admitted to buying the newly-born ducks from a source in Ho Chi Minh City, which local media described as "dubious." Animal Health authorities also confirmed to Thanh Nien News that the ducks in question had yet to be vaccinated against H5N1. Authorities have yet to identify the cause of the duck deaths.

¶10. (U) Party officials in the northern province of Quang Ninh were removed from leadership and stripped of their party membership after embezzling funds earmarked for AI prevention. Dow Jones Newswire reported on October 24 that two officials in the town of Tan Viet embezzled VND 47 million (USD 2,930) by inflating the number of culled waterfowl in the village. The GVN compensates individual

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poultry owners between VND 5,000 (33 cents) and VND 20,000 (USD 1.33) per culled bird. Two other town officials were reportedly given a warning over their involvement in the embezzlement.

MARINE